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A PLEASANT TRIP.

Given the soldiers of the First Battalion—Our Boys in It—A Newspaper Correspondent Accompanies Them—A Fire at Marianao.

Camp Columbia, near Havana, Jan. 22, 1899.

FOR THE STANDARD:—Garrison duty in Cuba is not so humble a task as was supposed by the boys before leaving the States, and since the active service has begun, the operations give the soldiers ample opportunities for a considerable amount of knowledge concerning the resources of the famous island. The first and famous battalion of the First North Carolina regiment, companies L, of Concord, H of Waynesville, K of Raleigh, and E, of Statesville, left this (Sunday) morning for an extensive march over a portion of the province of Havana, and will encamp on the south side the island on the Carrabean sea coast for six days, and then return. Major Smith, of the first battalion, is in command. The boys were in a state of high glee when leaving camp this morning, each man carrying his blanket-roll—one-half shelter or "dog" tent, one blanket, one poncho, one change of underclothes, a gun and twenty-five rounds of cartridges, together with the haversacks, canteen and mess outfit. The band accompanied the boys as far as Monte del Jesus, a small park place near Havana at the intersection of the main thoroughfare or pike which leads toward the mountains. Kodaks, writing materials and provisions were taken in great quantities and the trip will be quite a pleasant one to those who were fortunate enough to have been called out. About sixty-five of the members of each company were taken, leaving a detail in each street. Lieut. J F Goodman, Corporal Williams, Marshal Mabrey and H P Deaton were left in charge of quarters, to look after those left behind. Capt. Hill lead the line of march. One week is supposed to cover the time they will be absent. The weather is quite favorable, it being cool and pleasant. One battalion of the Sixth Missouri regiment has gone on a similar trip in a different direction for the same length of time.

The North Carolina regiment was yesterday honored by a visit from Mr. W E Christian, the famous story writer and newspaper correspondent. His mission here is in the interest of the Washington Post, Raleigh News and Observer, and some New York periodical. He was the guest of Major George E Butler last night and this morning he donned a uniform and accompanied the first battalion on its march. North Carolinians may expect some excellent stories about the famous First from the versatile pen of this prominent writer.

A very disastrous fire occurred at Marianao on Friday night the market place having burned down. It is said that the soldiers who are there doing provost have enough cigars and tobacco to last them many months. There are others less fortunate, however.

At this particular season the entire island where cultivation is not

in process is covered with the most beautiful and fragrant of flowers. The predominating flower is a degenerated specie of chrysanthemum bearing a yellow cast, and from every hillside one can see acre upon acre covered with this beautiful blossom and with a favorable breeze the air is odorous with their delicate perfume. In speaking of flowers recalls the fact that the florists raise their pot plants in reed or "cane" joints, some of which are as large as ordinary water pails. There are many rare and pretty flowers cultivated here, and nearly every home has a court or conservatory.

Sugar and molasses cane is now ripening and the harvest has begun. From every hill from miles around great volumes of smoke can be seen arising from molasses mills and sugar refineries. The poor, depressed Cubans are beginning to cheer up since the indications of returning prosperity and business. The sweet-potato is one of the principle products of the island, but the vegetable has very little nourishment. Its meat is white and mealy, though void of taste.

Camp Columbia was aroused from its usual quietude tonight about 9 o'clock when the great water tank on the Havana Marianao railroad toppled over. The crash and splash was heard for several miles and soldiers gathered about the scene in about the same state of excitement as they did at the Harrisburg wreck. Fortunately the train had just passed and as "weary Willies" do not hang out there no lives were lost.

Some of the boys have pretty sore arms from vaccination, but otherwise all are well.

Respectfully,
Harry P Deaton.

THE EDUCATIONAL MEETING

A Movement for a New High School Building.

As per call of Mayor Crowell some twenty or more citizens of the town met in the court house Friday night to consider the matter of advancing the school interest of the town as it pertains to a course above the graded school curriculum. Mr. Thompson, whose labors here have proved so highly satisfactory has felt the need of more room and all persons interested in his splendid work have doubtless wished for him a better house. It is a need of the town and a legitimate desire for the principal who puts himself into the educational work.

Since the presence in our midst of Rev. James Lippard the subject of greater high school facilities has been agitated and Rev. Lippard concluded to make a proposition to the town to the effect that the citizens or the town as such erect, instead of the building now used by Mr. Thompson, a suitable building of modern adaptation costing about ten thousand dollars and he would undertake to conduct the school. Rev. Lippard hopes, too, in such event, to secure an endowment fund of \$25,000 from abroad.

The proposition was listened to with much interest and a number of persons expressed their views. In the matter of improved facilities for high school work there was perfect unity but it seemed impractical to do more than to further ascertain the general wishes and formulate a

practical plan by which to accomplish the great end.

For this purpose the following gentlemen were appointed a committee; viz., E King, D P Dayvault, J O Gibson, W C Correll and J C Lippard.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Misses Bessie and Ivy Stricker went over to Charlotte last night.

—Rev. N I Bakke, of Charlotte, came over last night.

—Mrs. S F Stephens returned to Charlotte this morning, after spending several days here with her parents.

—Mr. J B Munson, of Raleigh, the division freight agent, spent last night here.

—Mr. Jno. Yorke returned this morning from a northern trip in the interest of the firm, Yorke Bros. & Rogers. He stopped over to spend Sunday.

—President M G G Scherer, of Mt. Pleasant, passed through here this morning on his way to Charlotte, where he preaches tomorrow at the Lutheran church.

FRENCH PEAS,

KORNLET

and

ITALIAN PASTE

at

Ervin & Morrison
GROCERS.

Mrs. Schubert Dead.

Just before going to press today (Saturday) we learn of the death of Mrs. Schubert, the wife of Mr. M D Schubert, who lives on South Main street next door to Mr. M L Brown.

Having been in the last stage of consumption for some time together with an attack of the grippe, her death has been expected for quite a while. She leaves a devoted husband and three children—two sons and one daughter—together with her mother, all of whom were at home at her death.

Organization Effected Friday.

The union meeting of the Baptist Associations of Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties met Friday at Cold Water church near here. Not a very large number was present. Nothing more than organizing was done on that day. The discussions of the topics as already mapped out will be held today.

The Martin Case Tried.

Mr. G W. Martin, the tobacco peddler, had a hearing today (Saturday) before Esq. O A Pitts. This is the case where Mr. Martin was at first accused of an assault with intent to rape, but after the testimony went before the grand jury the latter part was stricken out. The court decreed then that the matter would be tried at a magistrate's trial. The case was tried and Mr. Martin was fined the sum of five dollars. He was defended by Attorneys Crowell, Montgomery and Caldwell.

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